

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/658,631

Applicant(s)

SATO, NAOYUKI

Examiner

HIEU T. HOANG

Art Unit

2452

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communications filed on 04/03/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6-10,13-16,19,21 and 22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 6/4/09.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Kenny S Lin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452

DETAILED ACTION

This office action is in response to the communication filed on 04/03/2009.

Claims 1-25 are pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jonathan Owens on 06/04/2009.

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A first device to synchronize data with a second device, the first device comprising:

a memory comprising:

i. one or more applications;

ii. a network layer coupled to interface with the second device;

iii. a synchronization layer coupled to the network layer to provide a synchronization protocol between the first device and the second device; and

iv. an ~~interface-layer~~ application program interface (API) coupled to communicate with the one or more applications and the synchronization layer to provide ~~generic~~ synchronization ~~communications~~ between the one or more applications and the synchronization layer, wherein the API is protocol-independent, and wherein the generic synchronization communications between the one or more applications and the ~~interface-layer~~ API are independent of the any synchronization protocol used between the ~~interface-layer~~ API and the synchronization layer.

8. (Currently amended) A network comprising:

a. one or more network devices; and

b. an application device comprising:

i. one or more applications;

ii. a network layer coupled to interface with the one or more network devices;

iii. a synchronization layer coupled to the network layer to provide a synchronization protocol between the application device and the one or more network devices; and

iv. an ~~interface-layer~~ application program interface (API) coupled to communicate with the one or more applications and the synchronization layer to provide ~~generic~~ synchronization ~~communications~~ between the one or more applications and the synchronization layer, wherein the API is

protocol-independent, and wherein the generic synchronization communications between the one or more applications and the interface layer API are independent of any synchronization protocol used between the interface-layer API and the synchronization layer.

15. (Currently amended) A method of providing an interface application program interface (API) to one or more synchronization applications resident within a first device coupled to a network of devices, the method comprising:

a. sending and receiving messages to and from the one or more synchronization applications through ~~an interface layer~~ the API to one or more synchronization protocol stacks, to synchronize data between the first device and at least one other device within the network of devices, wherein the API is protocol-independent, and wherein the messages generic synchronization communications between the one or more synchronization applications and the interface-layer API are independent of a synchronization protocol used between the interface-layer API and the synchronization protocol stacks; and

~~b. generating and receiving communications at the interface-layer API to complete data synchronization between the first device and the at least one other device within the network of devices.~~

b. generating and sending communications at the API to a network layer via the one or more synchronization protocol stacks within the first device; and receiving

communications at the API from the network layer via the one or more synchronization protocol stacks within the at least one other device to complete data synchronization between the first device and the at least one other device within the network of devices.

21. (Currently amended) An apparatus for providing an interface application program interface (API) to one or more synchronization applications resident within a first device coupled to a network of devices, the apparatus comprising:

- a. a memory comprising:
 - i. means for sending and receiving messages to and from the one or more synchronization applications through ~~an interface layer~~ the API to one or more synchronization protocol stacks, to synchronize data between the first device and at least one other device within the network of devices, wherein the API is protocol-independent, and wherein the messages generic synchronization communications between the one or more synchronization applications and the interface-layer API are independent of a synchronization protocol used between the interface-layer API and the synchronization protocol stacks; and
 - ii. ~~means for generating and receiving communications at the interface-layer API to complete data synchronization between the first device and the at least one other device within the network of devices.~~
 - ii. means for generating and sending communications at the API to a network layer via the one or more synchronization protocol stacks within the first

device; and means for receiving communications at the API from the network layer via the one or more synchronization protocol stacks within the at least one other device to complete data synchronization between the first device and the at least one other device within the network of devices.

25. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein the synchronization protocol ~~stack is~~ stacks are selected from a group consisting of SyncML, Information Content Exchange (ICE), and Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning (WebDAV).

Claims 4, 5, 11, 12, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24. (Cancelled)

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-3, 6-10, 13-16, 19, 21-22 are allowed. The prior art of record does not teach the claimed invention, as follows.

The prior art does not teach a generic application program interface (API) for synchronization of applications between two devices; wherein the API allows communications between the applications and the API to be independent of any synchronization protocol used at the synchronization layer of the two devices. Conventional systems utilize a proprietary API for each synchronization protocol.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure is included in form PTO 892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hieu T. Hoang whose telephone number is 571-270-1253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HH

/Kenny S Lin/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2452